

I-285 Top End Express Lanes

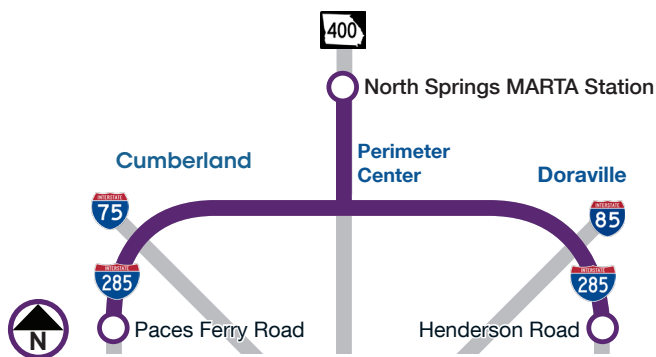
A Major Mobility Project — P.I. Number: 0001758

Frequently Asked Questions

Project Overview

What is the project?

To improve mobility on I-285, Georgia DOT plans to add new, optional express lanes consisting of two elevated, barrier-separated express lanes in both directions of I-285 between I-75 and I-85 in Cobb, Fulton, and DeKalb counties. The I-285 Top End Express Lanes will be part of the larger Georgia Express Lanes network. This is one of the initial 11 large-scale Major Mobility Investment Program (MMIP) projects to improve transportation in Georgia's metro areas.



What is the MMIP?

The Major Mobility Investment Program, or MMIP, is a grouping of 11 initial projects expected to yield a significant reduction in congestion along key freight and passenger corridors. The projects will create additional capacity, improve the movement of freight, provide operational improvements and efficiencies, enhance safety, and decrease travel times. More information on the MMIP is located at <http://www.dot.ga.gov/IS/MMIP>.

What are the benefits of using the I-285 Top End Express Lanes?

The proposed express lanes offer regional benefits including:

- Providing more reliable trip times
- Offering more consistent travel speeds
- Increasing transit options and opportunities
- Impacting regional economic growth positively

- Improving air quality
- Generating revenue

Express Lanes

What are express lanes?

Express lanes are designed to offer drivers a choice to bypass traffic congestion and provide more reliable trip times. Motorists using the express lanes pay to use the lanes while transit riders and state registered vanpools can utilize the express lanes at no additional cost.

Who will be able to use the I-285 Top End Express Lanes?

All drivers with two axles and six wheels or less will be able to use the express lanes if they register and obtain a Peach Pass. Regardless of the number of occupants in the vehicle, motorists who wish to access the I-285 Top End Express Lanes will be required to pay a fee; however, transit vehicles, registered vanpools, and emergency vehicles are exempt from paying a fee.

Information on obtaining and using a Peach Pass is available at www.PeachPass.com or by calling the Peach Pass Customer Service Center at 855-PCH-PASS.

How will motorists use the express lanes?

These newly constructed barrier-separated lanes are optional and will be managed by dynamic pricing, with the cost to access the lanes rising as demand increases during peak hours and decreases during non-peak hours. The cost to access the lanes will be clearly displayed on electronic overhead signs so drivers will know the trip cost prior to entering the lanes.

How much will it cost to use the express lanes?

The State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA), who manages the pricing on the operational express lanes, has a minimum toll of 10 cents a mile on all Georgia Express Lanes. During periods of very low demand, a minimum toll of 50 cents per trip, regardless of trip length, will be applied. The uniform pricing across all Georgia Express Lanes allows for greater customer ease and a consistent customer experiences.

Where will motorists be able to access the I-285 Top End Express Lanes?

Access points from the general-purpose lanes to the proposed I-285 Top End Express Lanes are currently being evaluated.

Project Delivery Method

How is the project being delivered?

The I-285 Top End Express Lanes Project is following a public-private partnership (P3) Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Maintain (DBFOM) delivery model. The DBFOM model allows the state to transfer the project's design, construction, and part of the initial financing responsibility to a private-sector partner. This enables the state to leverage funding to accelerate project delivery and capture private-sector innovations to best use taxpayers' money.

What is the schedule for the project?

Engineering, environmental, design, and right-of-way activities are underway. Construction is expected to begin in 2023 and anticipated to open to traffic in 2028.

When will a private sector partner be selected for the project?

A private sector Design-Build developer is anticipated to be selected in late 2022.

Project Funding

What is the cost of the project?

The total project cost estimate is \$4.6 billion.

How is the project funded?

Investments have been made possible by the General Assembly's passage of the state Transportation Funding Act of 2015 (TFA). Georgia DOT has worked with the governor, General Assembly, partner agencies, and local communities to prioritize a set of comprehensive projects to maintain the state's economic competitiveness and allow Georgia to remain the number one state for business.

What will be done with any excess revenue from the express lanes?

Once all debt repayment is complete, any revenue above and beyond the amount required to fund ongoing operation and maintenance of the express lanes will be available for other transportation needs.

Transit

What transit systems will be able to use the express lanes?

Public transit providers that operate in this corridor including Xpress, MARTA, and state-registered vanpools will be able to use the express lanes free of charge. Transit and registered vanpool riders will only need to pay their standard transit rider fee.

Will transit riders be required to pay anything beyond normal fares on routes that access express lanes?

No, there will be no additional costs to access the lanes for public transit riders, state-registered vanpools or public transit providers. For more information about the Georgia Express Lanes network, please visit <http://www.dot.ga.gov/DS/GEL>.

Stay Connected

How do I stay informed about the project?

Georgia DOT will provide regular updates through the project website, Georgia NaviGator 511, social media, newsletters, media announcements, and community outreach events. By bookmarking the project webpage to phones/tablets and computers, travelers can stay updated throughout the project duration. Project representatives are also available to speak to groups. A speaker's request form is available at the project webpage. To be added to the project distribution list to receive updates, please email TopEndExpressLanes@dot.ga.gov.

Stay Connected

TopEndExpressLanes@dot.ga.gov (sign up for updates)
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